

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A process for producing surface-modified work pieces made from a metal and/or one or more alloys, comprising the steps of:

providing the workpiece which is to be modified, and

treating the ~~[[this]]~~ workpiece with at least one modifying agent to obtain the surface-modified workpiece, ~~the workpiece to be modified which is provided being at a temperature of from 40 to 700°C, in particular from 80 to 550°C, and wherein the at least one modifying agent is~~ ~~[[being]]~~ at a temperature of at least 200°C, in particular of at least 0°C ~~[[, and]]~~ to at most 100°C, in particular at most 80°C,

wherein the workpiece to be modified is provided at a temperature of from 300 to 550°C,

wherein the at least one modifying agent comprises a metal salt of an element from one of transition groups I to VI of the periodic table of elements and a compound of an element from groups V, VI, VII or VIII of the periodic table of elements,

wherein the at least one modifying agent comprises a controlled atmosphere brazing (CAB) flux,

wherein the metal salt is in an aqueous phase, the pH of which is between 3 and 10,  
and

wherein the treating step comprises contacting the workpiece with at least one modifying agent in aerosol and/or vapor form.

Claims 2-5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~in which~~ the metal and/or one or more alloys ~~an alloy~~ contains aluminum, magnesium and/or copper.

Claims 7-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~in which~~ the modifying agent comprises ~~includes a CAB flux, in particular~~ potassium aluminum hexafluoride.

11. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~in which~~ the modifying agent comprises ~~includes an ammonium salt, in particular~~ ammonium fluoride, potassium fluoride, sodium or potassium silicate, sodium or potassium borate, sodium or potassium aluminate and/or at least one crosslinkable compound, such as for example an organometal, in particular organozirconium or organotitanium compound and/or at least one organosilicon compound or the like.

12. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the in which the metal salt is in an aqueous phase~~ has a ~~[[the]]~~ pH ~~of which is in particular between 1 and 14, in particular between 3 and 10, in particular between 4 and 8.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~in which~~ the CAB flux, ~~the ammonium salt or the potassium fluoride is in a phase with~~ has an alkaline pH.

14. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~in which~~ the modifying agent comprises ~~includes water, in particular~~ deionized or ~~[[and]]~~ distilled water, or an aqueous solution containing ammonia, amines, gases or organic acids or their salts or mixtures thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of treating ~~in which the treatment of the workpiece~~ comprises spraying ~~is carried out by~~ the at least one modifying agent, ~~in the form of an aerosol and/or vapor, being brought into contact with, in particular sprayed onto, the workpiece.~~

16. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of treating ~~in which the treatment of the workpiece is carried out by~~ comprises immersing the workpiece ~~being immersed in the at least one modifying agent, which is in the form of an in particular~~

aqueous solution, or by flooding the workpiece with the at least one modifying agent, which is in the form of the aqueous solution being flooded therewith.

17. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~in which a salt, in particular a metal salt, the~~ [[a]] CAB flux, ammonium fluoride, potassium fluoride, sodium or potassium silicate, sodium or potassium borate and/or sodium or potassium aluminate and/or at least one of crosslinkable compound, such as for example an organometal, in particular organozirconium or organotitanium compound and/or at least one organosilicon compound or the like is/are used in a matrix to treat the workpiece.

18. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein ~~in which the matrix comprises is composed of~~ organic or inorganic solvents or mixtures thereof.

19. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~in which a salt, in particular a metal salt, the~~ [[a]] CAB flux, ammonium fluoride, potassium fluoride, sodium or potassium silicate, sodium or potassium borate and/or sodium or potassium aluminate and/or organometal, in particular organozirconium or organotitanium, or organosilicon compounds is/are used to treat the workpiece in a concentration of from 10 ppm to 100000 ppm, in particular from 50 ppm to 10000 ppm.

20. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~in which the workpiece which is to be modified is a heat exchanger, in particular a CAB brazed heat exchanger.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~in which the at least one modifying agent includes a biocidal agent and/or a corrosion inhibitor, or the at least one modifying agent produces a biocidal agent and/or a corrosion inhibitor on a~~ [[the]] surface of the workpiece.

22. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) A surface-modified workpiece, produced by the process of one of the processes as claimed in claim 1.

23. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The workpiece as claimed in claim 22, further comprising which in at least one in particular subsequent step is provided with an organic or inorganic coating system.

24. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The workpiece as claimed in claim 23, wherein the in which a coating system includes a biocidal agent and/or has hydrophilic or hydrophobic properties.

25. (Currently Amended) A process for cohesively joining at least two workpieces, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing the workpieces,
- b) cohesively joining the workpieces to one another, and
- c) surface-modifying at least one of the workpieces,

wherein in which steps b) and c) are carried out together and step c) is carried out as described in the steps of claim 1.

26. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) An apparatus for cohesively joining at least two workpieces, in particular for carrying out the process as claimed in claim 25, having a temperature-control chamber and a device arranged in or on the temperature-control chamber for applying a surface-modifying agent to at least one workpiece.

27. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 26, wherein in which the device for applying a surface-modifying agent to at least one workpiece is designed as at least one in particular temperature-controllable spray nozzle.

28. (New) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one modifying agent is at a temperature of at most 80°C.

29. (New) The process as claimed in claim 17, wherein the crosslinkable compound comprises an organometal.
30. (New) The process as claimed in claim 29, wherein the organometal comprises organozirconium or an organotitanium compound.
31. (New) The process as claimed in claim 19, wherein the metal salt, the CAB flux, ammonium fluoride, potassium fluoride, sodium or potassium silicate, sodium or potassium borate and/or sodium or potassium aluminate and/or organometal is/are used to treat the workpiece in a concentration of from 50 ppm to 10000 ppm.
32. (New) The process as claimed in claim 20, wherein the heat exchanger is a CAB brazed heat exchanger.